

# FAQ on Business Impacts from Missouri River Flood

## *GENERAL QUESTIONS*

When can we return into evacuated areas? Will the roads be open? Are the utilities operational?

- Circumstances regarding returning to inundation areas, transportation access, and the use of utilities vary by local geographic region. Therefore, local leaders are best able to assess and make recommendations for their city or county. If you have questions on these subjects, please contact the locally designated official below:
  - o Dakota Dunes- Jeff Dooley- 232-4211
  - o Ft. Pierre- Sam Tidball- 280-2583
  - o North Sioux City- Don Fuxa- 232-4276
  - o Pierre- Leon Schochenmaier- 280-8124
  - o Yankton- Doug Russell- 668-5221

How will refunds be handled for services that have been canceled due to flooding? Who will rule on contests dealing with refunds?

- There is no uniform mandate; service providers and clients should work together to resolve settlement. If resolution cannot be met, landlord/tenant or lessee/lessor disputes regarding deposits, rents, termination, damage, etc. can be handled by contacting private legal counsel or the Division of Consumer Protection, Attorney General's Office.

Will there be any recommendations on 'how-to' mitigate damage/expedite cleanup?

- The Department of Health (DOH) has a number of resource materials available on cleanup (mold, sewage backflow, etc.), please check the website: <http://doh.sd.gov/flood/>. This site also maintains a listing of mold testing and remediation firms that provide services in SD. DOH is working with its federal counterparts to arrange some basic training in mold cleanup next month.

How will water in basements be handled for food service providers?

- DOH will make every effort to work with food service establishments affected by flooding to keep them operational, providing technical assistance as needed. Office of Health Protection 773-4945

Where can we find information and direct people to regarding recreation on the Missouri?

- The best place for updated and accurate information is the Game, Fish and Parks website, [www.sd.gfp.gov](http://www.sd.gfp.gov). Specifically, the highlighted section "Missouri River Conditions" contains the latest information on parks, boat ramps and any temporary restrictions that may be in place. People can also sign up to receive updated notices directly via email. For information about making or retaining camping reservations, please call: **800-710-2267**.

## *FEDERAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES*

- A Public Assistance disaster declaration is already in place for 31 counties across South Dakota including Hughes, Stanley, Union and Yankton Counties. It allows FEMA to reimburse state and local governments on a cost share basis as they restore public infrastructure damaged by flooding.
- The State is working with federal officials from the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to determine whether the state will qualify for SBA assistance.

If an SBA Disaster Declaration is issued:

- A variety of programs will become available to businesses affected by the disaster, which may include:
  - o Low interest loans from the Small Business Administration for business property losses not covered by insurance
  - o Low interest loans from the Small Business Administration for economic injury (relocation costs, lost revenue, working capital)

If an SBA Disaster Declaration is not designated?

- These Federal programs would not be made available to help private individuals or businesses.

#### *STATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES*

Are there any programs that offer low interest loans/working capital loans to businesses impacted by the floods?

- Working Capital is an eligible use of funds under the MicroLOAN program. The MicroLOAN program works in conjunction with banks and credit unions and offers a low, fixed-interest rate of 3%. For more information on the GOED's MicroLOAN program, contact Charlie Van Gerpen at 773-3301.

What additional financial resources may be available to businesses impacted by the floods?

- GOED's financing programs can be used to purchasing real property or equipment to sustain viability and retain full time employment in SD businesses. For information call Kim Easland at 773-3301.

If I have a state economic development loan, may I receive temporary relief on loan payments?

- At the request of borrowers, the GOED can offer impacted businesses interest only payments or a moratorium on payments for up to 6 months. Both payment options are at the discretion of the applicable board. For information call Kim Easland at 773-3301.

What can I do about my SBA loan during time of closure?

- Borrowers can request a moratorium on their payments. Borrowers should work directly with their lenders to determine flexibility.

What should business owners do in the meantime?

- Ensure valuable records and paperwork are safeguarded.
- Maintain good records of repairs and other expenses related to the disaster.
- You should not wait for a declaration to begin making necessary repairs. However, documenting those repairs with receipts and photographs will expedite the processing of any assistance that may become available later.
- Consult your tax professional regarding Internal Revenue Service (IRS) policies regarding disaster damage.